Melodic Blues Progressions

Ted Greene, 1977-07-20

These examples are just "skeletons" and should be filled in with tasty melodic lines. Learn these examples in the following keys: 1) in Bb, G, F, C, A and 2) in D, C, Eb, F, E. Then make up similar variations on the 12-bar blues progression.

Playing order: ● □ △
○ = opt.

Play with a jazz feeling

Key of Bb
The basic progression above is just the normal I-IV-V type that "everybody" plays, but the difference is that many of the above I7, IV7 and V7 chords are preceded by their own V7 chords. Also the last measures have a common turnaround* of I7-VI7-II7-V7.

* Turnaround - a chord progression used to fill up space, usually at the end of a phrase.
These examples are just "skeletons" and should be filled in with tasty melodic lines.

Learn these examples in the following keys:

1. in Bb, F, C, A
2. in D, C, Eb, F, E

Their make up similar variations on the 12 bar blues progression.

The basic progression above is just the normal I-V-I type that "everybody" plays, but the difference is that many of the above I7, II7, and V7 chords are preceded by their own V7 chords. Also, the last 2 measures have a common *turnaround* of I7, II7, III7.

*Turnaround= a chord progression used to fill up space, usually at the end of a phrase.*